

January 21, 2010

City Hall Announces Woodstove Exchange Program

“Burn It Smart” workshops and “Nephie” the mobile nephelometer part of clean air campaign

The City of Campbell River has \$250 rebates for residents replacing non-certified woodstoves with high-efficiency certified heating appliances. Funded by a provincial grant, 75 rebates are available on a first-come first-served basis from February 1 to April 30, 2010.

“Wood smoke is a significant contributor to poor air quality in low lying areas of the City,” says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. “We are working alongside local business to encourage residents to help improve local air quality through this incentive-based program.”

“We already have a number of people on a waiting list anxious for this program to begin,” adds Councillor Roy Grant, Council liaison to the City’s Environmental Advisory Commission.

Participating retailers destroy and recycle the old woodstoves.

Residents interested in replacing an uncertified woodstove with a new CSA/EPA-compliant appliance are encouraged to contact participating retailers for details on the rebate process. Information is also available on the City’s website www.campbellriver.ca under What’s New.

Free community *Burn It Smart* workshops are also planned, and dates will be announced soon. Providing information on clean burning techniques, the workshops are run by the Fire Department and Wood Energy Technical Training certified technicians, and rebate vouchers will be available.

Participants are welcome to bring a piece of firewood. *“People can test their wood during these sessions to see if it’s aged to the ideal 20 per cent moisture content,”* says Councillor Grant.

Mayor Charlie Cornfield says it’s estimated that swapping 75 *“old belching wood stoves”* will remove around 4.65 tonnes of fine particulate matter from the air. *“This is important because these inhalable fine particles can settle in the lungs and contribute to many kinds of respiratory diseases,”* the Mayor explains.

“The Burn It Smart program will help all of us achieve optimal stove efficiency and reduced particulate pollution,” Councillor Grants sums up.

Nephie, the mobile nephelometer will be on display at Burn it Smart workshops and at the Community Science Celebration (Feb. 13, 2010, North Island College, 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). On loan from the University of Victoria’s Spatial Sciences Laboratory, Nephie will be used to survey air quality in and around the City. Air quality information will be used by the City, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and other project partners to guide future education and awareness programming.

Participating Retailers: Bennett Sheet Metal & Heating; Just Wood Stoves; Quality Stoves & Fireplaces Ltd.

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